

B.7 PLANETARY ASTRONOMY

1. Scope of Program

The NASA Planetary Astronomy program supports ground-based telescopic observations that contribute to the understanding of the general properties and evolution of the Solar System, its planets, their satellites, and of asteroids and comets. The Planetary Astronomy program includes observations and analysis of data taken over the entire range of wavelengths from the ultraviolet to radio. The investigations proposed to this program must contain an element of ground-based observing, and the thrust of the proposed research objectives must support NASA's planetary program objectives which cannot be met by current spacecraft missions or that directly support specific current flight missions. Ground-based observations that supplement NASA missions returning significant amounts of data within the next three years are especially encouraged. These Science Objectives are clearly defined in Table 1 found in the Summary of Solicitation for this NRA.

Note that to enable the NASA Office of Space Science to properly evaluate the relevance of proposals submitted to its programs, as well as track its progress towards achieving its goals as mandated by the Government Performance Review Act (GPRA), all research supported by NASA's programs must now demonstrate its relationship to NASA Goals and Research Focus Areas (RFAs) as stated in the latest version of our Strategic Plan (follow links from the Web site <http://spacescience.nasa.gov>/see also the discussion in Section I of the *Summary of Solicitation* of this NRA. Therefore, all proposers to this program element are asked to state their perception of this relevance in terms of the Goals, Science Objectives, and RFAs given in Table 1 found in the *Summary of Solicitation*. In particular, this program element is designed to help fulfill any of the RFAs in all six Science Objectives in Goal II of the Solar System Exploration science theme. The appropriate place for this statement of relevancy is in the introduction to the proposal's "Scientific/Technical/Management" section (see Section 2.3.5 in the Guidebook for Proposers). The index numbers in this table may be used to identify a specific RFA, for example, "Goal II, Solar System Exploration, RFA 1(c)" or "Goal II, Astronomical Search for Origins, RFA 3(d)."

2. Programmatic Considerations

Presently about \$8.0M is budgeted for this program, of which \$3.5M is dedicated to facilities support (principally the Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF)). Approximately 60 investigations are supported with the remaining funds. Approximately one-third of these awards are expiring, allowing proposers to this ROSS-2004 NRA to compete for about \$1.5M.

- *Instrumentation*

The *Planetary Major Equipment* program described in Appendix B.12 of this NRA allows proposals for upgrading the analytical, computational, telescopic, and other instrumentation required by investigations for certain programs sponsored by the Solar System Exploration Division, including this one. New, analytical instrumentation requests, as well as requests for

upgrades to existing instruments, costing more than \$25,000 should be identified and requested in a special section of each proposal, to be titled "Major Equipment Request." However, note that a Planetary Major Equipment proposal must be affiliated with a "parent" OSS research proposal in order to be considered; see Appendix B.12 for details.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The *Summary of Solicitation* of this NRA points out that NASA Headquarters now uses a single, unified set of instructions, entitled *NASA Guidebook for Proposers Responding to NASA Research Announcements*, that provides detailed guidance for the preparation and submission of proposals to most of its NRAs. By reference the current edition, *Guidebook for Proposers– 2004*, is incorporated into this Office of Space Science solicitation and is accessible by linking through the menu item "Helpful References" at the Web site <http://research.hq.nasa.gov> or it may be directly accessed at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/procurement/nraguidebook/>. Proposers to this Program Element are urged to familiarize themselves with this document, in particular its Chapters 1, 2, and 3, before preparing a proposal. This NRA's *Summary of Solicitation* also contains the schedule and instructions for the electronic submission of both a *Notice of Intent* (NOI) to propose, as well as a proposal's *Cover Page/Proposal Summary/Budget Summary* for the proposal, and the mailing address for the submission of proposals.

Additional information about this program may be obtained from the Program Officer:

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